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Statistical Commission

Report on the thirty-fourth session (4-7 March 2003)

Economic and Social Council

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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Summary

The Commission reviewed the ongoing work of groups of countries and international organizations in various fields of demographic, social, economic and environmental statistics and on certain cross-cutting issues in statistics. The Commission:

(a) Endorsed the programme of proposed actions to be undertaken by the United Nations Statistics Division in support of the 2010 round of population and housing censuses;

(b) Requested the creation of a friends of the Chair group to examine coordination among international organizations and between international organizations and national statistical offices in the production and dissemination of health statistics, recommend actions to be taken for improvement and report back to the Commission;

(c) Endorsed the proposal of the United Nations Statistics Division to hold, in collaboration with the Siena Group for Social Statistics, an expert group meeting on setting the scope of social statistics;

(d) Endorsed the proposal to prepare a compendium on best practices in poverty statistics and urged that the compendium address the needs of developing countries;

(e) Endorsed the scope of the updating process of the System of National Accounts, 1993 (1993 SNA) with a view to maintaining the fundamentals of the current system and its consistency with related manuals like the *Balance of Payments Manual*, the *Government Finance Statistics Manual* and the *Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual*, also endorsed the managing and coordinating role of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA) in the updating process with the assistance of an Advisory Group on National Accounts (AGNA), and further endorsed the targeted publication date of 2008 for the updated System of National Accounts;

(f) Welcomed the report of the Office for National Statistics of the United Kingdom, which comprehensively summarized the many topical issues concerning the new economy;

(g) Noted with satisfaction the progress in agricultural statistics, in particular the modernization of FAOSTAT (the corporate statistical database of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations), the promotion of the decennial programme of the World Census of Agriculture and the renewed activities in agricultural producer price statistics, and agreed with the proposal of creating an international advisory panel on agricultural statistics;

(h) Welcomed the comprehensive report on service statistics activities prepared by the programme reviewer, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, and, noting the strong need for a project management approach and coordination of work in services statistics, suggested that the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) take the lead in this regard;

(i) Commended the World Bank on its efforts resulting in significant developments in the International Comparison Programme, endorsed the composition

of the newly established Executive Board of the Programme, and welcomed the progress made by the new Global Office of the Programme in carrying out central coordination in the worldwide work on purchasing power parities;

(j) Supported the programme of work for environment statistics outlined by the United Nations Statistics Division, agreed that the Statistics Division should set up an inter-agency working group on environment statistics, with a special focus on the development and harmonization of methods, concepts and standards, coordination of data collection, and training, and took note of the proposal made by OECD, the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) with respect to establishing a steering committee on statistics of sustainable development;

(k) Supported the need for a concepts paper to provide a conceptual basis for the revisions of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) and the Central Product Classification (CPC), noting that consultations with countries will facilitate further refinement of the concepts paper, and reiterated its expectation of a positive outcome of the convergence process between the General Industrial Classification of Economic Activities within the European Communities (NACE) and the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS);

(l) Authorized its Chairman to finalize the report on indicators requested by the Economic and Social Council and requested that the report particularly emphasize the need for international support to capacity-building in statistics in developing countries so as to meet the range of needs for development indicators on a sustainable basis, stressed the need to pay particular attention to indicators to monitor implementation of Millennium Development Goal 8 (Develop a global partnership for development), and approved the draft terms of reference for the Advisory Committee on Indicators, agreeing that further harmonization and prioritization in the field of development indicators were needed;

(m) Emphasized the importance of statistical capacity-building and stressed that statistical capacity-building efforts needed to be an integral part of development programmes, and endorsed the technical cooperation programme of the United Nations Statistics Division;

(n) Agreed that the actions outlined in response to policy decisions of the Economic and Social Council were consistent with the Council's requests and adequately reflected the relevant work being undertaken and planned by the Commission and the United Nations Statistics Division;

(o) Welcomed the establishment of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities, requested the Committee to work on a common approach to the assessment of data quality, and, endorsing the approach taken by the United Nations Statistics Division and the Committee to reviewing and resolving specific examples of data-collection duplication, requested the Statistics Division and the Committee to continue working on this issue and report on progress made;

(p) Endorsed the proposed draft programme of work for the biennium 2004-2005 and the priorities proposed by the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division, and approved the revision of the work programme for 2003 as proposed by the Director, in particular with respect to expert group meetings, workshops and publications;

(q) Noted or gave direction to the work of the Washington Group on Disability Measurement, the Ottawa Group on Price Indexes, the Steering Committee of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century, the Task Force on International Trade Statistics, the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services, and the Task Force on finance statistics, as well as the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics.

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decision

1. The Statistical Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Statistical Commission on its thirty-fourth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-fifth session of the Statistical Commission

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Statistical Commission on its thirty-fourth session;

(b) Decides that the thirty-fifth session of the Commission shall be held in New York from 2 to 5 March 2004;

(c) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-fifth session of the Commission as set out below.

Provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-fifth session of the Statistical Commission

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

   Documentation

   Provisional agenda and annotations

   Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session

   Note by the Secretariat on the state of preparation of documentation for the session

3. Demographic and social statistics:

   (a) Human settlement statistics;

   Documentation

   Report of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

   (b) Health statistics;

   Documentation

   Report of the Friends of the Chair on health statistics

(c) Social statistics (programme review);

Documentation

Report of the expert group on social statistics

Report of the Secretary-General

(d) Statistics of drugs and drug use;

Documentation

Report of the Office on Drugs and Crime of the United Nations Secretariat

(e) Paris Group on Labour and Compensation;

Documentation

Report of the Paris Group on Labour and Compensation

(f) Poverty statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Rio Group on Poverty Statistics

Report of the Secretary-General

(g) Siena Group for Social Statistics.

Documentation

Report of the Siena Group for Social Statistics

4. Economic statistics:

(a) National accounts;

Documentation

Report of the Task Force on National Accounts

(b) Information and communication technologies statistics;

Documentation

Report of the International Telecommunication Union

(c) Service statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics

Report of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

(d) Tourism statistics;

Documentation

Report of the World Tourism Organization

(e) International Comparison Programme;

Documentation

Report of the World Bank

(f) Statistics of science and technology;

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

(g) Round Table on Business Survey Frames;

Documentation

Report of the Round Table on Business Survey Frames

(h) Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics.

Documentation

Report of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics

5. Natural resources and environment accounting:

Documentation

Report of the London Group on Environmental Accounting

Report of the Secretary-General

6. Activities not classified by field:

(a) Dissemination of statistics, including guidelines for dissemination via the Internet;

Documentation

Report of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

(b) Implementation of the fundamental principles of official statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(c) International economic and social classifications;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(d) Statistical capacity-building;

Documentation

Report of the Steering Committee of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (PARIS 21) initiative

(e) Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata;

Documentation

Report of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange initiative

(f) Methodological development: integrated presentation;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(g) Indicators;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(h) Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(i) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes;

Documentation

Report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities on its work

(j) Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division).

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the work programme of the United Nations Statistics Division

7. Provisional agenda and dates for the thirty-sixth session of the Commission.

8. Report of the Commission on its thirty-fifth session.

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

2. The attention of the Council is drawn to the decisions and recommendations of the Commission (see chap. II, paras. 2, 4, 6 and 8; chap. III, paras. 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 15, 17 and 19; chap. IV, para. 2; chap. V, paras. 2, 4, 6, 9, 11 and 14; chap. VI, para. 3; and chap. VII, para. 2).

Chapter II
Demographic and social statistics

A. Population and housing censuses

1. The Commission considered item 3 (a) of its agenda at its 1st meeting, on 4 March 2003. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on population and housing censuses (E/CN.3/2003/2).

Action taken by the Commission

2. The Commission:

(a) Endorsed the report of the Secretary-General and the activities proposed in paragraphs 4-17 therein, emphasizing that those activities would need to be completed by 2006 if they were to respond to the requirements of countries and contribute to the planning of the 2010 round of population and housing censuses;

(b) Recommended the inclusion of the following activities:

(i) Development of guidelines and sharing of experience in the use of the Internet in census data collection and dissemination, and development of new technologies for data capturing, particularly scanning, to improve efficiency and cost-effectiveness;

(ii) Preparation of technical documents on: taking stock of the successes and failures in the 2000 round of national censuses, post-enumeration surveys based on national experience from the 2000 round of censuses, and use of geographical information systems (GIS) and digital mapping in data collection and dissemination;

(iii) Further work on the use of new technology, such as GIS, to capture data on human settlements, including slums;

(c) Suggested the addition of the following themes for the 2004 symposium:

(i) Mobilization of broad public acceptance and support for census activities;

(ii) Approaches to the collection and dissemination of data on race and ethnicity;

(iii) Cost-effectiveness of post-enumeration surveys;

(d) Requested the development of a handbook to complement the *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revision 1*,[1] and the organization of workshops to review and assess national experience in implementation, facilitating future revisions of the *Recommendations*;

(e) Also requested that population and housing censuses be an integral part of national statistical systems, and emphasized the need to ensure full coordination with surveys, as well as administrative recording systems;

[1] Statistical Papers, No. 58, Rev.1 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.XVII.14).

(f) Further requested further work to identify instruments that could be used to ensure accurate and reliable measurement of population change during the intercensal periods.

B. Health statistics

3. The Commission considered item 3 (b) of its agenda at its 1st meeting, on 4 March 2003. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Health Organization on health statistics (E/CN.3/2003/3);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Australian Bureau of Statistics on health statistics (E/CN.3/2003/4);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Central Statistics Office of Botswana on health statistics (E/CN.3/2003/5 and Corr.1);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Statistical Office of the European Communities on health statistics (E/CN.3/2003/6).

Action taken by the Commission

4. The Commission:

(a) Expressed concern about the lack of consultation, coordination and collaboration between the World Health Organization (WHO), on the one hand, and national statistical offices, and regional and international organizations, on the other;

(b) Emphasized that the responsibility for primary data collection lies with countries, who report aggregate statistics to international organizations, while international organizations assist in the development of statistical standards and provide technical support to countries;

(c) Reiterated the need for:

(i) Transparency and openness in the methods used to compile and generate health statistics;

(ii) Coordinated use of the existing sources of health statistics available in national systems;

(d) Expressed support for the work of WHO on the WHO Family of International Classifications, and requested guidelines on the preparation of national health accounts;

(e) Proposed that guidelines be prepared on implementing the automated coding system for recording cause of death;

(f) Requested WHO, in collaboration with the United Nations Statistics Division and other relevant bodies of the United Nations system, to explore alternative methods of estimating the prevalence of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS);

(g) Also requested that a group of Friends of the Chair be created to examine coordination among international organizations and between international

organizations and national statistical offices in the production and dissemination of health statistics, recommend actions to be taken for improvement and report back to the Commission;

(h) Further requested that the sub-item entitled "Health statistics" remain in the agenda of forthcoming sessions of the Commission.

C. Social statistics

5. The Commission considered item 3 (c) of its agenda at its 1st meeting, on 4 March 2003. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on social statistics (E/CN.3/2003/7) and a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report prepared by the Office for National Statistics of the United Kingdom on the conference on the theme "official statistics and the new economy" organized by the International Association for Official Statistics (E/CN.3/2003/10).

Action taken by the Commission

6. The Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General and endorsed the activities proposed in paragraph 16 therein;

(b) With respect to the expert group meeting on setting the scope of social statistics:

(i) Endorsed the proposal of the United Nations Statistics Division to hold an expert group meeting in May 2003, in collaboration with the Siena Group for Social Statistics;

(ii) Underscored the need for the expert group meeting to be focused, to deliver clear outcomes and to develop a time frame for achieving the set goals;

(iii) Urged the expert group meeting to review current mechanisms for coordinating activities in social statistics, with particular attention to setting good practices and standards;

(iv) Recommended that the expert group take into account the progress made in the area of development indicators;

(v) Suggested that the expert group consider the implications for social statistics contained in the report of the Office for National Statistics of the United Kingdom on the official statistics and the new economy;

(c) With respect to the international collection of disability statistics:

(i) Supported the collection of disability statistics through the *Demographic Yearbook* system;

(ii) Emphasized the need to ensure the collection of internationally comparable disability statistics;

(iii) Encouraged the United Nations Statistics Division to work with the Washington Group on Disability Measurement to identify items for which statistical information on disability was comparable;

(iv) Advised the judicious and complementary use of the sources of disability statistics and information, namely, censuses, surveys and administrative records;

(d) With respect to poverty statistics:

(i) Endorsed the proposal to prepare a compendium on best practices in poverty statistics;

(ii) Urged that the compendium address the needs of developing countries and have an applied focus, and stressed the importance of its timely and progressive release;

(iii) Urged for proactive consultation with other institutions that had expertise in poverty data collection and measurement;

(e) Recommended the compilation of gender-relevant statistics.

D. Washington Group on Disability Measurement

7. The Commission considered item 3 (d) of its agenda at its 1st meeting, on 4 March 2003. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Washington Group on Disability Measurement (E/CN.3/2003/8).

Action taken by the Commission

8. The Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Washington Group, and noted that disability was a complex and difficult area of statistical measurement;

(b) Advised caution in the policy use of information generated from general measures of disability since the purpose and use of data on disability might require a range of disability measures.

Chapter III
Economic statistics

A. National accounts

1. The Commission considered item 4 (a) of its agenda at its 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 4 and 5 March 2003. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report by the Task Force on National Accounts (E/CN.3/2003/9);

(b) Room document entitled "Summary of SNA-related activities of member organizations of the ISWGNA";

(c) Room document entitled "Experts to the Advisory Group on National Accounts of the ISWGNA";

(d) Room document prepared by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development on the terms of reference of the Canberra II Group;

(e) Room document containing an update on the Handbook on Non-profit Institutions in the System of National Accounts by the Center for Civil Society Studies of the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland;

(f) Two room documents prepared by the International Monetary Fund on electronic discussion groups on non-performing loans and on pension schemes.

Action taken by the Commission

2. The Commission:

(a) Endorsed the scope of the updating process with a view to maintaining the fundamentals of the current *System of National Accounts, 1993* (1993 SNA)[2] and its consistency with related publications like the *Balance of Payments Manual*, 5th ed.,[3] the *Government Finance Statistics Manual, 2001*,[4] and the *Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual*;[5]

(b) Supported the three criteria for identifying issues for updating and recommended the inclusion of two additional criteria, namely, user needs and feasibility;

(c) Endorsed the managing and coordinating role of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts in the updating process with the assistance of the Advisory Group on National Accounts, requested that a detailed project document be prepared to describe the updating of the 1993 SNA including its agenda, work programme, timetable, governance, resource implications and decision-making process and a delineation of the role of the Advisory Group, and advised the Intersecretariat Working Group to circulate the document for inputs to member countries;

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[2] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XVII.4.
[3] Washington, D.C., IMF, 1993.
[4] Washington, D.C., IMF, 2001.
[5] Washington, D.C., IMF, 2000.

(d) Also endorsed the list of issues to be updated and recommended that it be an open-ended list so as to include additional items like consumer durables, treatment of military equipment, and return on capital assets of general government in order to ensure full accounting on general government;

(e) Further endorsed the targeted publication date of 2008 for the updated System of National Accounts but considered too optimistic the deadline of 2005 for the conclusions to be submitted to the Commission and suggested that that deadline be moved to mid-2006;

(f) Noted the concerns of some member countries about the decision-making process regarding past submissions of solutions by the Intersecretariat Working Group to the Commission and recognized the desirability of arriving at solutions in a spirit of compromise ensuring a thorough analysis of issues by set deadlines;

(g) Also noted the concerns of developing countries and international bodies about the challenges met in the implementation of the current 1993 SNA and the need to maintain international comparability;

(h) Emphasized the need to widen the participation of member States in the updating process;

(i) Urged for timely translation of the officially approved document in all the official languages of the United Nations.

B. Measuring the new economy

3. The Commission considered item 4 (b) of its agenda at its 2nd meeting, on 4 March 2003. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office for National Statistics of the United Kingdom on the conference on the theme "official statistics and the new economy" organized by the International Association for Official Statistics (E/CN.3/2003/10).

Action taken by the Commission

4. The Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Office for National Statistics of the United Kingdom, which had comprehensively summarized the many topical issues concerning the new economy;

(b) Recognized the fact that the phenomenon known as the "new economy" involved advanced levels of knowledge and information and communication technologies and led to rapid changes on a global scale, affected many statistical domains, especially service statistics, and entailed highly complex conceptual issues, including measurement, one of which could involve changes in comparative advantage and how wealth was created;

(c) Endorsed the recommendation that international bodies set clear priorities for research on important issues and agreed that close cooperation between international bodies and national statistical offices and sharing of good practice were required to move the agenda forward;

(d) Supported the emphasis of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development on providing speedy and clear recommendations in relation to the work described in paragraph (c) above;

(e) Welcomed the initiatives of countries, the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Economic Commission for Europe with respect to contributing to research and organizing expert meetings and workshops.

C. Agriculture statistics

5. The Commission considered item 4 (c) of its agenda at its 3rd meeting, on 5 March 2003. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on recent developments in agricultural statistics and future plans (E/CN.3/2003/11 and Corr.1).

Action taken by the Commission

6. The Commission:

(a) Noted with satisfaction the progress in agricultural statistics, in particular, the modernization of FAOSTAT (the FAO corporate statistical database), the promotion of the decennial Programme of the World Census of Agriculture and the renewed activities in agricultural producer price statistics, and welcomed the involvement of FAO in monitoring two indicators among the Millennium Development Goals;[6]

(b) Expressed support for future methodological development plans in food and agriculture statistics that would encompass broadening the scope of agricultural statistics, moving towards demand-side statistics and, more specifically, developing a framework of new concepts and methods for rural statistics;

(c) Expressed its appreciation for the contribution of FAO to cooperation and coordination efforts in agricultural statistics at both the regional and international levels;

(d) Strongly affirmed that more resources would need to be mobilized in order for FAO to fulfil its leadership role and extend its programme in agricultural statistics;

(e) Agreed with the proposal of creating an international advisory panel on agricultural statistics.

[6] See General Assembly resolution 55/2; also A/56/326, annex.

D. Statistics of services (programme review) and statistics of international trade in services

7. The Commission considered items 4 (d) and 4 (g) of its agenda jointly at its 3rd and 4th meetings, on 5 March 2003. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Australian Bureau of Statistics on the statistics of services (E/CN.3/2003/12);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services (E/CN.3/2003/15).

Action taken by the Commission

8. The Commission:

(a) Welcomed the comprehensive report on service statistics activities prepared by the Australian Bureau of Statistics;

(b) Noted the wide variety of activities related to services statistics carried out by a large number of city and expert groups and voiced general support for these activities;

(c) Emphasized that the participation of developing countries in these groups needed to be facilitated;

(d) Noted the strong need for a project management approach and coordination of work in services statistics and suggested that the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) take the lead in this regard;

(e) Agreed that this coordination function should not be carried out by existing city groups, whose work should remain focused on methodological issues;

(f) Noted that such a coordination function would include a continuous overview of activities carried out, ensuring and facilitating communication between the different groups involved, and identifying overlaps, links and gaps in the work on data-collection and methodological issues, as well as setting priorities for work on services statistics;

(g) Encouraged the preparation of a single annual report on the work undertaken by the various expert and city groups on services statistics and requested that this report be submitted to the Commission;

(h) Suggested that the future work on implementation of the *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services*[7] should focus on increasing the quality of data, rather than on introducing more detailed statistics.

E. International Comparison Programme

9. The Commission considered item 4 (e) of its agenda at its 4th meeting on 5 March 2003. It had before it the following documents:

[7] Statistical Papers, No. 86 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.XVII.11).

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme (E/CN.3/2003/13);

(b) Room document on the status of the International Comparison Programme dated 4 March 2003 prepared by the World Bank.

Action taken by the Commission

10. The Commission:

(a) Acknowledged the important role of the Friends of the Chair as an interim governing body and noted that, with the new management structure of the International Comparison Programme (ICP) now in place, the group would be disbanded;

(b) Commended the World Bank on its comprehensive report and its efforts resulting in the significant developments that had taken place since the previous session of the Commission, endorsed the composition of the newly established ICP Executive Board, and welcomed the progress achieved by the new ICP Global Office in carrying out central coordination in the worldwide work on purchasing power parities (PPP);

(c) Stressed that the ownership of the programme by countries should be emphasized even more strongly and that continuous communication with national statistical offices was essential, adding that the success of the programme depended greatly on the commitment of the agencies responsible for ICP in their region;

(d) Recognized that scope, coverage and funding issues were interrelated and noted with satisfaction that alternative proposals had been elaborated in case budget constraints might result in the necessity of reconsidering the limitation of the programme to the comparison of consumption for a smaller number of countries, and encouraged additional funding and in-kind support for the programme at both the regional and global levels from interested donors as well as bilateral support to countries seeking technical assistance;

(e) Reviewed with great interest the timetable for the Programme and concluded that it provided adequate basis for implementing ICP in a timely fashion, and noted, moreover, that its presentation in the room document had contributed to the transparency of the Programme;

(f) Welcomed the preparation of the draft Handbook on ICP that would soon be available for review, and supported the initiative of a wider dissemination of information on the Programme through the ICP newsletter and an improved ICP web site;

(g) Expressed strong support for the implementation of ICP, emphasizing its capacity-building potential in consumer price and national accounts statistics, as well as price and household consumption surveys, and stressed the need to develop the Programme in such a way as to ensure its sustainability beyond the current phase.

F. International merchandise trade statistics

11. The Commission considered item 4 (f) of its agenda at its 4th meeting, on 5 March 2003. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on International Trade Statistics (E/CN.3/2003/14).

Action taken by the Commission

12. The Commission:

(a) Took note of the work and plans of the Task Force;

(b) Endorsed the plans of the Task Force to develop a manual on import and export price indices;

(c) Welcomed the intention of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to develop that manual.

G. Statistics of international trade in services

13. The Commission considered items 4 (d) and 4 (g) jointly at its 3rd meeting, on 5 March 2003 (see paras. 7-8).

H. Finance statistics

14. The Commission considered item 4 (h) of its agenda at its 4th meeting on 5 March 2003. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on Finance Statistics (E/CN.3/2003/16).

Action taken by the Commission

15. The Commission:

(a) Welcomed the close and fruitful cooperation of a large set of international organizations within the Task Force on Finance Statistics;

(b) Congratulated the Task Force on the completion of the publication entitled *External Debt Statistics: Guide for Compilers and Users*,[8] and welcomed the IMF training seminars for managers and external debt data compilers on collection, quality improvement and cross-country comparability of data;

(c) Endorsed the Task Force's serving as a forum within which to address issues pertaining to external debt statistics;

(d) Encouraged research on vulnerability assessment;

(e) Supported the effort of the Task Force and IMF:

[8] Available at http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/eds/Eng/Guide/index.htm. Accessed on 14 April 2003.

(i) To develop a centralized database on external debt statistics based on data compiled by countries to complement the joint Bank for International Settlements (BIS)-IMF-OECD-World Bank statistics (BIOWS) database;

(ii) To develop further BIOWS, especially with regard to data on short-term debt;

(iii) To identify repositories of information so as to assess gaps in data on external debt for a broad range of countries;

(iv) To analyse and reconcile statistics compiled by debtors and creditors;

(f) Acknowledged the effort of the Task Force towards assisting IMF in developing a data quality assessment framework.

I. Ottawa Group on Price Indexes

16. The Commission considered item 4 (i) of its agenda at its 4th meeting, on 5 March 2003. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Ottawa Group on Price Indexes (E/CN.3/2003/17).

Action taken by the Commission

17. The Commission took note of the report of the Ottawa Group and its plan to hold a meeting in 2003 to provide a forum for sharing experience on crucial problems of measuring price change.

J. Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics

18. The Commission considered item 4 (j) of its agenda at its 4th meeting, on 5 March 2003. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics (E/CN.3/2003/18).

Action taken by the Commission

19. The Commission:

(a) Noted that the Manual on Consumer Price Indexes was nearing completion and that the improved structure of the Manual, as presented in the annex of the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group, reflected stronger emphasis on practical issues of compilation of consumer price indexes;

(b) Also noted that the work on the Producer Price Index Manual was well advanced and its publication was expected in the latter part of 2003;

(c) Recommended that the Intersecretariat Working Group explore the possible direction of its future work after its initial mandate (on the elaboration of the manuals) was accomplished.

Chapter IV
Natural resources and environment statistics

1. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 4th meeting, on 5 March 2003. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on environment statistics (E/CN.3/2003/19).

Action taken by the Commission

2. The Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report, prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division, on the results of the two global collections of environment statistics, and underlined the complexity of environment statistics, acknowledged existing methodological and institutional difficulties, and emphasized the high priority to be given at the international level to this new and developing area of statistics;

(b) Supported the programme of work in environment statistics outlined in the report;

(c) Emphasized the need for a continuous review of data collection based on the analysis of response rates, priorities and user needs;

(d) Stressed the need to intensify work in the development of standards, concepts and methods for environment statistics;

(e) Underlined the necessity of linking the development of environment statistics with statistics on sustainable development;

(f) Recognized the importance of collaboration between data producers and policy makers at the national level;

(g) Stressed the role of training and national capacity-building in the development of environment statistics;

(h) Agreed that the United Nations Statistics Division should set up an inter-agency working group on environment statistics, with a special focus on the development and harmonization of methods, concepts and standards, coordination of data collection, and training;

(i) Took note of the joint proposal made by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, Eurostat and the Economic Commission for Europe to establish a steering group on statistics of sustainable development.

Chapter V
Activities not classified by field

A. International economic and social classifications

1. The Commission considered item 6 (a) of its agenda at its 4th and 5th meetings, on 5 and 6 March 2003. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report by the Secretary-General on international economic and social classifications (E/CN.3/2003/20);

(b) Background document entitled "The 2007 revision of ISIC and CPC: a draft concepts paper";

(c) Background document entitled "Report of the Working Group on the Convergence of NACE and NAICS".

Action taken by the Commission

2. The Commission:

(a) Generally supported the need for the concepts paper to provide a conceptual basis for the revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC)[9] and the Central Product Classification (CPC)[10] and noted that consultations with countries would facilitate further discussion and refinement of the concepts paper;

(b) Stressed the need for a strong link between activity and product classifications;

(c) Also stressed the need for continuity through clear links to previous versions of the classifications, and cautioned against substantial changes;

(d) Reiterated its expectation of a positive outcome of the convergence process between the General Industrial Classification of Economic Activities within the European Communities (NACE) and the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), welcomed the report on the steps taken so far and emphasized the need to continue consultations in Europe;

(e) Agreed to the continuation of the consultation process, involving countries through questionnaires, meetings and workshops;

(f) Noted the need for funding in some regions, such as for francophone African countries, to ensure inclusion of the countries concerned in the revision process;

(g) Recommended that national consultations on classifications involve a variety of users, including the business community;

(h) Noted the need for increased integration of classifications of activities, products and occupations;

[9] Statistical Papers, No. 4, Rev.3.1 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.XVII.4).
[10] Statistical Papers, No. 77, ver.1.1 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.XVII.3).

(i) Requested that the timetable for the revision of the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO)[11] be reviewed, noting that moving deadlines forward was necessary to meet the needs of the next census rounds, and suggested the creation of a technical subgroup to assist in the revision of ISCO.

B. Harmonization of indicators and reporting on progress towards the Millennium Development Goals

3. The Commission considered item 6 (b) of its agenda at its 3rd and 4th meetings, on 5 March 2003. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the harmonization of indicators and reporting on progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (E/CN.3/2003/21);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Development Programme on the status of Millennium Development Goal country reporting (E/CN.3/2003/22);

(c) Background document entitled "Draft report of the Statistical Commission to the Economic and Social Council on indicators";

(d) Background document entitled "Preliminary study on the availability of data for indicators".

Action taken by the Commission

4. The Commission:

(a) Authorized its Chairman to finalize the report on indicators requested by the Economic and Social Council based on the draft report circulated as a background document at the session, taking into account the comments made during the discussion as well as written comments received from member States within the two weeks following the session of the Commission;

(b) Requested that the report to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council particularly emphasize the need for international support to capacity-building in statistics in developing countries to meet the range of needs for development indicators on a sustainable basis;

(c) Stressed the need to pay particular attention to indicators monitoring implementation of Millennium Development Goal 8 (Develop a global partnership for development), recommended that country-level reports be prepared by developed countries with regard to progress on the commitments made by them to provide assistance to developing countries for the achievement of the goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[12] and also recommended that at least one such report should be prepared by each developed country by 2004, in time for the Secretary-General's comprehensive review in 2005 of the progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.

[11] ISCO-88 (Geneva, International Labour Office, 1991).

[12] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

(d) Approved the draft terms of reference for the Standing Advisory Committee on Development Indicators as contained in annex I of the Secretary-General's report, taking into consideration the comments made in the discussion, in particular the request that transparent working procedures be adopted that would allow for inputs from member States, requested the Secretariat to prepare the approved terms of reference and send them to members of the Commission within two weeks, and decided that the Advisory Committee should submit its recommendations to the Commission for consideration and approval;

(e) Agreed that further harmonization and prioritization in the field of development indicators were needed, in particular with regard to the indicators for the Millennium Development Goals and the indicator architecture recommended by the Friends of the Chair which had been endorsed by the Commission at its thirty-third session (E/2002/24, para. 66);

(f) Emphasized that:

(i) Any international list of recommended indicators should be adapted in each country to the economic and social circumstances and priorities of that country, and take into account each country's statistical capacities and need for a phased, practical programme of statistics development;

(ii) National statistical services should have a leading role in developing national country reports;

(g) Noted with satisfaction the progress that had been reported in preparing the next round of the International Comparison Programme, and the value of these data in preparing internationally comparable estimates for the indicator for the Millennium Development Goal of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger;

(h) Called upon the international statistical services to provide developing countries with more extensive guidance, documentation and training materials on international standards and best practices in data collection and analysis relating to development indicators and monitoring of the progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, and their role in policy planning and implementation.

C. Statistical capacity-building

5. The Commission considered item 6 (c) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 6 March 2003. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on statistical capacity-building (E/CN.3/2003/23);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the annual progress report of the Steering Committee of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (PARIS 21) (E/CN.3/2003/24).

Action taken by the Commission

6. The Commission:

(a) Emphasized the importance of statistical capacity-building and stressed that statistical capacity-building efforts needed to be an integral part of development programmes;

(b) Also emphasized the importance of effective collaboration of all providers of technical cooperation services;

(c) Endorsed the technical cooperation programme of the United Nations Statistics Division;

(d) Took note of the indicator framework for statistical capacity and encouraged PARIS 21 to conduct further testing in member States;

(e) Welcomed the offer of PARIS 21 to prepare a report on the dissemination of statistics to be submitted to the Commission at its next session.

D. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions

7. The Commission considered item 6 (d) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 6 March 2003. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General on the policy decisions of the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2003/28).

8. At the same meeting, on 6 March, the Coordinator of the Statistical Commission (United Nations Statistics Division) made a statement.

Action taken by the Commission

9. The Commission agreed that the actions outlined in the note by the Secretary-General were consistent with the Council's requests and adequately reflected the relevant work being undertaken and planned by the Commission and the United Nations Statistics Division.

E. Coordination and integration of statistical programmes

10. The Commission considered item 6 (e) of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 7 March 2003. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the inter-agency meeting on coordination of statistical activities (E/CN.3/2003/25);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of statistical data collection from countries (E/CN.3/2003/26).

Action taken by the Commission

11. The Commission:

(a) Welcomed the establishment of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities;

(b) Requested the Committee to work on a common approach to the assessment of data quality;

(c) Endorsed the approach taken by the United Nations Statistics Division and the Committee to review and resolve specific examples of data-collection duplication, and requested the Statistics Division and the Committee to continue working on this issue and to report on progress made;

(d) Encouraged member States to bring instances of duplication of data collection at the international level to the attention of the United Nations Statistics Division.

F. Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division)

12. The Commission considered item 6 (f) of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 7 March 2003. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretariat on the draft programme of work of the United Nations Statistics Division for the biennium 2004-2005 (E/CN.3/2003/29);

(b) Note by the Secretariat on the expert group meetings and workshops to be held by the United Nations Statistics Division in 2003 (E/CN.3/2003/30).

13. The Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made an introductory statement.

Action taken by the Commission

14. The Commission endorsed the draft programme of work of the United Nations Statistics Division for the biennium 2004-2005 and the priorities proposed by the Director of the Statistics Division, and approved the revision of the work programme for 2003 as proposed by the Director, in particular the modification in the list of the expert group meetings and workshops to be held by the Statistics Division in 2003 and the cancellation of three outputs that had been programmed for 2002-2003, which revision comprised:

(a) Elimination of the expert group meetings on:

(i) Review of the draft manual on census and survey design for disability statistics;

(ii) Review of the draft second volume of the manual of environment statistics;

(b) Elimination of the workshops on:

(i) Organization and management of national statistical offices (Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS));

(ii) Sampling methods (Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA));

(c) Inclusion of:

(i) Technical expert subgroup meeting on classifications;

(ii) Expert group meeting on vital statistics and collection of fertility and mortality data in Africa;

(d) Inclusion of workshops on:

(i) Implementation of the System of National Accounts (Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA));

(ii) Compiling international migration statistics;

(iii) Developing national capacities for monitoring health and demographic millennium development indicators and goals in Africa;

(e) Cancellation of the following outputs:

(i) Non-recurrent manual on census and survey design for disability statistics;

(ii) Non-recurrent publication on the United Nations Statistics Division Expert Group on Disability Statistics;

(iii) Technical material on the methodologies for the estimation of environmental pressures on the basis of economic statistics.

Chapter VI

Provisional agenda and dates for the thirty-fifth session of the Commission

1. The Commission considered item 8 of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 7 March 2003. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretariat containing the provisional agenda and dates for the thirty-fifth session of the Commission (E/CN.3/2003/L.2) and an informal note that contained amendments to document E/CN.3/2003/L.2;

(b) Note by the Secretary-General containing the draft multi-year programme of work for the Statistical Commission for the period 2003-2006 (E/CN.3/2003/31);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General on the activities of the Commission for Social Development and their possible implications for the work of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2003/32);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General on the World Summit on Sustainable Development and its possible implications for the work of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2003/33).

2. At the 6th meeting, on 7 March 2003, the Chief, Statistical Development and Analysis Section, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, made a statement and circulated an informal note, in English only, containing amendments to document E/CN.3/2003/L.2. Following statements by the representatives of India and Mexico and the observers for Australia, Canada, the Netherlands and Lithuania, the Commission approved the provisional agenda for its thirty-fifth session, as contained in document E/CN.3/2003/L.2 and the informal note, and the draft multi-year programme of work for the Commission for 2002-2005, as contained in document E/CN.3/2003/31.

Action taken by the Commission

3. The Commission:

(a) Approved the provisional agenda and documentation for its thirty-fifth session, as contained in document E/CN.3/2003/L.2 and the informal note containing amendments thereto (see chap. I, sect. A), subject to review and finalization by its Bureau, and requested its Bureau to streamline the agenda so as to make it appropriate for the time assigned to the Commission, and to consider alternative ways for the Commission and Bureau to further improve their functioning;

(b) Recommended that its thirty-fifth session be held in New York from 2 to 5 March 2004;

(c) Approved the multi-year programme of work for the Statistical Commission for 2002-2005, as amended;

(d) Took note of the activities of the Commission for Social Development (see E/CN.3/2003/32) and the activities of the Commission on Sustainable Development (see E/CN.3/2003/33) that were relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission.

Chapter VII

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirty-fourth session

1. At the 6th meeting, on 7 March 2003, the Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Commission (E/CN.3/2003/L.3 and L.3/Add.1) and three draft texts submitted in English only.

Action taken by the Commission

2. The Commission adopted the draft report and the three draft texts, and entrusted the Rapporteur, in consultation with the Secretariat, to finalize the report.

Chapter VIII
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Statistical Commission held its thirty-fourth session at United Nations Headquarters from 4 to 7 March 2003. The Commission held 6 meetings (1st to 6th).

2. The session was opened by the Chairman of the thirty-third session, Tamás Mellár (Hungary).

B. Attendance

3. The session was attended by 24 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations also attended. A list of participants is given in annex I to the present report.

C. Election of officers

4. At its 1st meeting, on 4 March, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman:
Tamás Mellár (Hungary)

Vice-Chairmen:
K. K. Jaswal (India)
Gilberto Calvillo Vives (Mexico)
Katherine K. Wallman (United States of America)

Rapporteur:
Pali Jobo Lehohla (South Africa)

D. Agenda and organization of work

5. At its 1st meeting, on 4 March, following a statement by the observer for Palestine, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda contained in document E/CN.3/2003/1, as orally amended, as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Demographic and social statistics:
   (a) Population and housing censuses;
   (b) Health statistics;
   (c) Social statistics;
   (d) Washington Group on Disability Measurement.

4. Economic statistics:
   (a) National accounts;
   (b) Measuring the new economy;
   (c) Agriculture statistics;
   (d) Statistics of services (programme review);
   (e) International Comparison Programme;
   (f) International merchandise trade statistics;
   (g) Statistics of international trade in services;
   (h) Finance statistics;
   (i) Ottawa Group on Price Indexes;
   (j) Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics.
5. Natural resources and environment statistics.
6. Activities not classified by field:
   (a) International economic and social classifications;
   (b) Harmonization of indicators and reporting on progress towards the Millennium Development Goals;
   (c) Statistical capacity-building;
   (d) Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions;
   (e) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes;
   (f) Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division).
7. Provisional agenda and dates for the thirty-fifth session of the Commission.
8. Report of the Commission on its thirty-fourth session.

6. At the same meeting, following a statement by the representative of the United Nations Statistics Division, the Commission approved the organization of the work of the session, as orally revised (E/CN.3/2003/L.1).

7. Also at its 1st meeting, the Commission agreed to the participation at this session of the following intergovernmental organizations: the Economic and Statistical Observatory of Sub-Saharan Africa and the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics.

E. Documentation

8. The documents before the Commission at its thirty-fourth session are listed in annex II to the present report.

Annex I

Attendance

Members

Algeria	Abdallah Baali, Abdelkrim Saoudi, Belkacem Smaili, Djihed-Eddine Belkas
China	Li Qiang, Leung Kam-to, Li Xiaochao, Fang Kuan, Yue Renfeng, Sun Xiaobo
Costa Rica	Ana Patricia Chaves
Czech Republic	Stanislav Drapál, Hana Slégrova, Juraj Koudelka
Denmark	Jan Plovsing, Thure Christiansen, Søren Schiønning Andersen, Kim Boldby Pedersen
France	Jean-Louis Puig, Guillaume Mordant, Philippe Leglise-Costa
Ghana	K. A. Twum-Baah
Greece	Adamantios Vassilakis, Athanasia Xenaki, Despina Fragoulopoulou
Hungary	Tamás Mellár, Csabáné Bálint, Katalin Postáné Kiss, Orsolya Szenthe
India	K. K. Jaswal
Jamaica	O'Neil Francis
Japan	Snichi Obayashi, Shigeru Kawasaki, Hiroyuki Kitada, Tetsuro Sakamaki, Masato Aida, Dyuzi Agematsu, Akira Terashima, Toshiaki Shinozaki, Kazuro Nemoto, Akihiro Sakata
Mexico	Gilberto Calvillo Vives, Rafael Lozano Ascencio, Jaime Andrés de la Llata Flores, Francisco Javier Gutiérrez-Guzmán, Carlos Valera Paulino
Morocco	Abdelaziz Maalmi
New Zealand	Brian Pink, Ian Ewing, Mark Ramsden
Pakistan	Yusaf Kamal, Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Muhammad Hassan
Peru	Oswaldo De Rivero, Emilio Farid Matuk Castro, Jose Antonio Doig
Romania	Aurel Camara, Llie Dumitrescu, Gabriela Tanjala
Russian Federation	Y. N. Isakov, Alexandeer Kevesh, B. S. Avramenko, Sergey Lavrov, Andrei Kosarev, I. O. Gribok, V. N. Zubkov, E. A. Stanislavov, A. N. Gospodarev
South Africa	Pali Jobo Lehohla, Xolisa Mabhongo, Andries Oosthuizen

Spain	Inocencio F. Arias, Carmen Alcaide, Miguel A. de Castro, Caridad Battalla
Uganda	John B. Male-Mukasa
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Len Cook, Robin Lynch, Malcolm Sorreli, Roger Edmunds
United States of America	Katherine K. Wallman, Suzann Evinger, Jennifer Madans, J. Steven Landefeld, Rosemary Marcuss, Robert Anthony, John Murphy

States Members of the United Nations represented by observers

Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Switzerland

Entities maintaining a permanent observer mission at the United Nations

Palestine

United Nations bodies

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), International Civil Service Commission, Economic Commission for Africa, Economic Commission for Europe, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Specialized agencies and related organizations

International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Intergovernmental organizations

African Development Bank, Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics, Asian Development Bank, Commonwealth of Independent States, Conference of European Statisticians, Conference of Statistics of the Americas, Economic and Statistical Observatory of Sub-Saharan Africa, European Commission, Organization of the Islamic Conference, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and

Development, Pan American Health Organization, Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries, Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, Statistical Office of the European Communities

Non-governmental organization

International Statistical Institute

Annex II

List of documents

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/CN.3/2003/1 and Corr.1	2	Provisional agenda and annotations
E/CN.3/2003/2	3 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General on population and housing censuses
E/CN.3/2003/3	3 (b)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Health Organization on health statistics
E/CN.3/2003/4	3 (b)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Australian Bureau of Statistics on health statistics
E/CN.3/2003/5 and Corr.1	3 (b)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Central Statistics Office of Botswana on health statistics
E/CN.3/2003/6	3 (b)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Statistical Office of the European Communities on health statistics
E/CN.3/2003/7	3 (c)	Report of the Secretary-General on social statistics
E/CN.3/2003/8	3 (d)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Washington Group on Disability Measurement
E/CN.3/2003/9	4 (a)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on National Accounts
E/CN.3/2003/10	4 (b)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office for National Statistics of the United Kingdom on the conference on the theme "Official statistics and the new economy" organized by the International Association for Official Statistics
E/CN.3/2003/11 and Corr.1	4 (c)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on recent developments in agricultural statistics and future plans
E/CN.3/2003/12	4 (d)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Australian Bureau of Statistics on the statistics of services
E/CN.3/2003/13	4 (e)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme
E/CN.3/2003/14	4 (f)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on International Trade Statistics

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/CN.3/2003/15	4 (g)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services
E/CN.3/2003/16	4 (h)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on Finance Statistics
E/CN.3/2003/17	4 (i)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Ottawa Group on Price Indexes
E/CN.3/2003/18	4 (j)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics
E/CN.3/2003/19	5	Report of the Secretary-General on environment statistics
E/CN.3/2003/20	6 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General on international economic and social classifications
E/CN.3/2003/21	6 (b)	Report of the Secretary-General on the harmonization of indicators and reporting on progress towards the Millennium Development Goals
E/CN.3/2003/22	6 (b)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Development Programme on the status of Millennium Development Goal country reporting
E/CN.3/2003/23	6 (c)	Report of the Secretary-General on statistical capacity-building
E/CN.3/2003/24	6 (c)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the annual progress report of the Steering Committee of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (PARIS 21)
E/CN.3/2003/25	6 (e)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the inter-agency meeting on coordination of statistical activities
E/CN.3/2003/26	6 (e)	Report by the Secretary on the coordination of statistical data collection from countries
E/CN.3/2003/27		*Not issued*
E/CN.3/2003/28	6 (d)	Note by the Secretary-General on the policy decisions of the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission
E/CN.3/2003/29	6 (f)	Note by the Secretariat on the draft programme of work of the United Nations Statistics Division for the biennium 2004-2005

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/CN.3/2003/30	6 (f)	Note by the Secretariat on the expert group meetings and workshops to be held by the United Nations Statistics Division in 2003
E/CN.3/2003/31	7	Note by the Secretary-General on the draft multi-year programme of work of the Statistical Commission for the period 2003-2006
E/CN.3/2003/32	7	Note by the Secretary-General on the activities of the Commission for Social Development and their possible implications for the work of the Statistical Commission
E/CN.3/2003/33	7	Note by the Secretary-General on the World Summit on Sustainable Development and its possible implications for the work of the Statistical Commission
E/CN.3/2003/L.1	2	Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session
E/CN.3/2003/L.2	7	Note by the Secretary-General on the provisional agenda and dates for the thirty-fifth session of the Commission
E/CN.3/2003/L.3 and L.3/Add.1	8	Draft report of the Commission on its thirty-fourth session

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